*The* PERILS *of* FALSE BRETHREN, *both in Church, and State:*

Set forth in a

# SERMON

PREACH'D

Before the Right Honourable

THE

# LORD-MAYOR,

Aldermen, and Citizens of *London*,

AT THE

# *CATHEDRAL-Church of St.* Paul,

On the Fifth of *November*, 1709.

——Haud Imprudenter Speculatus, Neminem celerius *Opprimi*: quam Qui *nihil timeret*, & Frequentissimum Initium esse *Calamitatis* SECURITATEM. *V. Paterc.* L. 2. c. 118.

——*When they shall say* PEACE, *and* SAFETY, *then* Sudden Destruction *cometh upon them as Travail upon a Woman with Child, and they shall not escape*, 1 Thess. c. 5. v. 3.

By HENRY SACHEVERELL, D. D. Fellow of *Magdalen-College*, *Oxon*, and Chaplain of St. *Saviour's*, *Southwark*.

*LONDON*,

Printed, and Sold by *H. Hills*, in *Black-Fryars*, near the Water-side, 1710.

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To the Right Honourable

# Sir *SAMUEL GARRARD*, Bar.

## Lord-Mayor of the City of *London.*

My Lord,

By *Your* Lordſhip's *Command this* Diſcourſe *Ventures to Appear in* Publick, *in Contempt of all thoſe* Scandalous Miſrepreſentations *the* Malicious Adverſaries *of Our* Church *have Traduc'd it with, and that* Impartial Sentence *it had the* Honour *to Receive from ſome of thoſe* Acute, *and* Wiſe Judges, *who* Condemn'd *it without* Sight, *or* Hearing. *But 'tis no New Thing with ſome Men to* Cenſure *at* Random, *what lies out of their* Sphere; Examining *a Cauſe may prove* Dangerous, *for Fear of their* Own Conviction *of its* Merits. *When Men are* Reſolv'd *to* Leap *into a* Gulph, *the beſt way is to* ſhut *their* Eyes, *for fear they ſhould* See *their* Danger, *and* Repent *of their* Folly: *When they are thus* Abandon'd, *and* Given up *to* Ruin, *the* Charitable Hand, *that would hold out an* Unwelcome Light *to* Prevent *it, muſt expect to be Treated with that ungrateful* Inſolence, *and* Reproach, *which uſually Attends the* Generous Freedom *of thoſe who* Dare *ſpeak* Seaſonable, *and* Neceſſary Truths. *That* Patient's Caſe *doubtleſs is very* Deſperate, *that ſets himſelf againſt His* Cure; *and when Men are ſo ſtupidly* harden'd *in their Errors as to* Reſiſt *the moſt* Glaring Evidence, *there's no Room for* Argument, *or* Goſpel. Moſes, *and the* Prophets, *may with* Chriſt, *and his* Apoſtles, *be* Baniſh'd *Our* Synagogues, *when Truth muſt be Oppreſs'd by* Number, *and* Noiſe, *and* Rebellious Appeals *to the* People; *as the only Judges of* Right, *and* Wrong, *and the* Dernier Reſort *of* Juſtice, *and* Dominion. *Are not theſe the* Faſhionable Methods *now made uſe of to* Over-bear, *and* Silence *Our* Church, *to* Affront, *and* Revile *Our* Legiſlature, *in order to Break in upon the* Prerogative *of the* Crown? *By* Threatning *them with* Imaginary Legions, *and a* Popular Tribunal, *where their* Authority *and* Eſtabliſhment *are to be*

*be* Try'd, *and* Determin'd? *To put a Stop to which* Dangerous, *and* Encroaching Miſchief, *that now with* Impunity *walks up and down thro' this* Diſtracted Kingdom, *I thought it my* Duty, (*being Summon'd to this Office by Your* Lordſhip) *to Diſcharge it in the beſt Method I could; to Preſerve Us from theſe* Malicious Deſigns, *by endeavouring, if poſſible, to Open the Eyes of the* Deluded People, *in this Our* Great Metropolis; *being Conſcious of what* prodigious Importance *it is to the* Welfare *of the* whole Nation, *to have its* Rich *and* Powerful Inhabitants *ſet right in their* Notions of Government, *both in* Church, *and* State; *that they may not be* Flatter'd *into their* Ruin, *but ſeeing the* Fatal *Conſequences of theſe* Damnable Falſe Doctrines, *which ſome* Seditious Impoſtors *have Labour'd to* Poiſon *'em with, may* Forſake, *and* Deteſt *them. I am confident,* My Lord, *that this* Glorious *and* Renown'd City *can Boaſt of ſo many Excellent* Examples *of* Unſhaken Steadineſs, Diſintereſted Probity, *and true* Zeal, *and* Loyalty *for Our* Church *and* Sovereign, *that if they would Act with the ſame open and undaunted* Reſolution *Your* Lordſhip *does, theſe* Affrighting Phantoms *muſt Vaniſh: But if* Honeſt Gentlemen *will ſit ſtill, and give up their* Cauſe *thro' want of* Courage, *or a* Juſt Senſe *of the* Dangerous Attempts *of Our* Enemies, *without the Spirit of Prophecy We may foretel what will become of Our* Conſtitution, *when 'tis ſo* Vigorouſly Attack'd *from* without, *and ſo* Lazily Defended *from* within.

*We are told by theſe Men, who would fain* ſhut both Our Eyes and Our Mouths, *in order the more effectually to* Undermine *and* Deſtroy *Us, that the* Pulpit *is not a Place for* Politicks, *and that 'tis the Buſineſs of a Clergy-Man* to Preach Peace, *and not* Sound a Trumpet in *Sion, ſo expreſly contrary to the Command of God, to* Cry aloud, *and* Spare *not.* My Lord, *I was always humbly of Opinion, that the* Fifth Commandment *was* Genuine; *the* Fanaticks *would do well to ſtrike that* Dangerous Precept *out of the* Decalogue, *as the* Papiſts *have the* Second, *that neither might* Riſe in Judgment *againſt theſe* United Friends *and* Brethren. *Now as this ſtands the* Firſt *in the* Second Table, *is it not of the utmoſt Importance to be rightly* Underſtood, *as containing the*

# The Dedication.

Principal Duty *that We* Owe *to God's* Vice-Gerents, *which has been so Scandalously and Villainously* Misinterpreted *of late, to the* Great Dishonour *of* Both? *Certainly* Our Church *thought so formerly, when it took such* Care *to* Guard *Our* Obedience, *with more* Homilies, *concerning the* Peril of Rebellion, *than of any* other Sin. *And when was more Reason for Enforcing their* Doctrines *than now, when We see these Admirable* Dissuasives *against* Faction *and* Sedition *maliciously* Wrested *to* Countenance, *and* Support *it? If Our* Excellent Constitution *apprehends no* Hazard *from these* Licentious Proceedings, *I am sure those who would* Defend *it from them, have reason to do so with regard to their* Own Persons: *Our Pastors can't do their Duty without being Menac'd for it, and* Slander'd *by the Vile* Amanuenses *of the* Mob, *to expose us to their Fury, as* Papists, *and* Men Disaffected *to Her* Majesty's Government, *whose* Safety, Rights, *and* Establishment, *together with those of the* Church, *We so earnestly contend for; which I solemnly here Declare (as I did before in this Discourse) to be my only* Aim *and* Intention; *and in an humble way to follow the* Foorsteps *of Your* Lordship, *who is so Bright an* Ornament, *and* Support *of them. That this* Great City *may Flourish under Your* Auspicious Conduct, *and never want a* Magistrate *of your steady* Principles *to* Guide *and* Govern *it, is the Hearty Prayer of,*

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Humble Servant,

*Henry Sacheverell.*

## 2 Cor. xi. 26.

## *In* PERILS *among* FALSE BRETHREN.

AMONG All the moſt Dreadful *Plots* that ever Threatn'd this *Church*, and *Kingdom*, the Diſmal *Tragedy* contriv'd as this Day to be *Executed* on *Both*, may juſtly Claim the *Horrible Precedence*, and conſequently the *Higheſt Expreſſions* of Our *Gratitude* for ſo Aſtoniſhing and *Miraculous* a *Deliverance* from it. For whether We conſider the Black *Depth* of its ſubtle *Contrivance*, the Deſtructive *Extent*, and *Sanguinary Conſequences* of it, or its Surprizing and Unaccountable *Diſcovery*, We muſt Confeſs, that nothing but the *All-powerful*, and Gracious *Hand of God*, interpoſing againſt the utter Subverſion of Our *Nation*, and *Religion*, could have prevented ſuch a *Fatal Conſpiracy*. A Conſpiracy! ſo full of the moſt Unheard-of *Malice*, moſt Inſatiable *Cruelty*, moſt Diabolical *Revenge*, as only could be *Hatch'd* in the *Cabinet-Council* of *Hell*, and *Brought forth* in a Conclave of *Romiſh Jeſuits!* Now, tho' the *Hiſtory* of this Unparallell'd *Myſtery of Iniquity*, was *Deſign'd* againſt Us at ſuch a *Diſtance* of Time, and the *Fact* ſo evidently *Acknowledg'd*, that the *Papiſts* themſelves are ſo far from *Denying*, that they *Extol* it with the Higheſt *Panegyrics*; ſo that there needs neither *Proof* of the One, nor *Repetition* of the Other: Yet doubtleſs 'tis as much Our *Duty*, as *Intereſt*, to keep up the *Annual Celebration* of this *Never-to-be-forgotten Feſtival*. For that the very Face, and Shadow of Our *Church*, and *Conſtitution*, is yet *Surviving*; That this *Good* and *Pious Reliſt* of the *Royal Family*, Sits now Happily upon the *Throne* of Her Great *Anceſtors*; That Our *Hierarchy* and *Nobility* was not finally *Extirpated*, and cut off; That Our *Country* was not made an *Aceldama*, a *Field of Blood*, and a *Receptacle* of Uſurping *Robbers*; That we yet, without *Slavery*, *Superſtition*, or *Idolatry*, enjoy the *Benefit* of Our Excellent *Laws*, and moſt Holy *Profeſſion*, Undefil'd: In a Word, that God has yet *Vouchſafed* Us *this Opportunity* of coming into his Preſence, to *Acknowledge* theſe Ineſtimable Bleſſings, is owing to his *Mercy* ſo ſignally ſhewn to Us, in Diſappointing the *Barbarous Maſſacre* intended *This Day*. A *Day!* which ought to ſtand for Ever in the *Engliſh Kalendar*, as an Eternal *Æra* at the One end, as the *Thirtieth* of *January* at the Other, for *Indelible Monuments* of the Irreconcileable Rage, and *Blood-thirſtineſs* of both the *Popiſh*, and *Fanatick* Enemies of Our *Church*, and *Government!* For theſe are *equally* ſuch Treacherous *FALSE BRETHREN*, *from* whom we muſt always expect the *utmoſt Perils*, and *againſt* whom we can never ſufficiently Arm Our ſelves with the greateſt *Caution*, and *Security*. Theſe TWO DAYS, indeed, are but One *United Proof*, and *Viſible Teſtimonial* of the ſame *Dangerous*, and *Rebellious Principles*, theſe *Confederates in Iniquity* Maintain: And as the *One* is but a *Thankſgiving* for our *Deliverance from* what the *Firſt Projected*; ſo is the *Other* an *Humiliation*, for what God permitted the Latter, by *Their Help and Direction*, to put in Execution. I think therefore, the *Beſt way* of Acknowledging Theſe Great *Mercies*, and

*Judgments* of God, and Acquitting *Both Solemnities* in a Proper way, is by ſo juſtly Conſidering Our *Circumſtances* with reſpect to *Each Side*, as to Guard againſt Their *Malicious*, and *Factious Deſigns* for the future; that we may never *Truſt Either*, to need a *Second Deliverance* from thoſe *Villainous Enterprizes*, they will never ceaſe to put in Practice, whenever they ſee an *Opportunity* of doing it with *Security*.

Now as *Perſecution*, and *Affliction*, were the *Diſtinguiſhing Badges* of the *Meſſiah*, who was a *Man of Sorrows*, and *Acquainted with Griefs*; ſo to Convince his *Diſciples*, that his *Kingdom was not of this World*, He *Bequeath'd* the ſame *ſad Legacy* to them, to *ſhare* the *Character*, as well as *imitate* the *Example*, of their *Dying Lord*, and *Maſter*. With unſhaken *Courage*, and *Reſolution*, to take up His *Bloody Croſs*, and follow the *Great Leader of their Salvation*; to *March* with a Cheerful Magnanimity thro' all the *Powers of Darkneſs*, *looking unto Jeſus, the Author and Finiſher of Their Faith, who, for the Joy that was ſet before Him, Endur'd the Croſs, deſpiſing the Shame, and is ſet down at the Right-hand of the Throne of God.* Thus was *His Church* to expect no *Better Treatment* than Her *Great Founder*, and *Original*, to paſs thro' the ſame *Fiery Trial*, to be *made Perfect through Sufferings*, to be *Militant here*, in order to be *Triumphant hereafter*; and like *Him*, to be *Crown'd with Thorns in This World*, to obtain a *Crown of Glory* in the *Next*. Not only to Encounter the *Open Fury* and *Violence* of Her *Profeſs'd*, and *Inveterate Enemies*; but (which was the *Bittereſt* Part of Her *Sufferings*) like Her *Saviour*, to be *Betray'd*, and perfidiouſly Given up by Her Own *Falſe-hearted*, and *Inſidious Apoſtles*.

As the *Hiſtories* of the *Church* in *All Ages* are as 'twere but One Continu'd *Ratification* of this *Melancholly Truth*, made up of ſo many Mournful *Narratives*, of the *Unhappy Lives*, and *Diſaſtrous Deaths* of *Saints*, *Martyrs*, and *Confeſſors*, who Bravely *Seal'd the Faith with their Blood*; ſo it is Exemplify'd in no One Inſtance more than in that *Primitive*, and *Heroic Champion* of Chriſtianity, the *Author* of this *Epiſtle*. Wherein, for the *Wonder*, and *Emulation* of Poſterity, He has Recorded a Long and *Frightful Catalogue* of thoſe Aſtoniſhing *Calamities* He had underwent in the *Propagation* of the *Goſpel*. Such Ample *Satisfaction*, did the *Pious Labours* of the *Convert*, make for the wicked *Perſecution* of the *Jews*; when by a *Miraculous Turn* of *Providence*, the *Greateſt Sinner* was Chang'd into the *Devouteſt Saint*, and the moſt *Zealous Bigot againſt*, into the moſt Reſolute *Sufferer for*, Religion. Yet however this *Great Apoſtle*, might have Attain'd ſo Extraordinary a Degree of *Merit*, as to *Out-ſhine* all that *Noble Army of Martyrs*, which Adorn the *Bloody Kalendar* of the *Church*; nay, as He Expreſſes it, *to come never a whit Short of the Greateſt Apoſtles*, and as 'twere to *Vye Characters* with the very *Choſen* of the *Son of God*; Does it not ſeem a little to carry the *Air* of *Oſtentation*, and *Vain-Glory*, thus to Claim the *Pre-eminence* and *Supremacy*, and to Boaſt himſelf in that *Pompous Shew* of *Services*, that he had done for God, and the *Church*? But We ſhall eaſily *Recontile* the *Apoſtle*, and the *Orator*, and find no Imputation upon His *Modeſty*, if we Conſider the *Occaſion* of it. He had (as He informs Us,) with much *Paints*, and *Expence*, Planted Chriſtianity in *Corinth*, where He had no ſooner by a *Miraculous Miniſtry* Eſtabliſh'd it, but ſeveral

*Falſe*

*False Apoſtles*, and *Seducers*, were in his Abſence *Crept* into the Church to Vitiate, and Corrupt his *New Proſelytes*, under the Pretence of *More Purity*, and *Holineſs*, (like Our *Modern Sectariſts*) to raiſe a *Schiſm* amongſt 'em, and to Draw them off from the *Opinion* they had of St. *Paul*; by *Ridiculing* Him for his *Perſon*, and *Addreſs*, as a Little, *Un-edifying*, *Ungifted Preacher*, *of a weak Bodily Preſence*, *and Contemptible Speech*; thus *Wounding* the *Miniſtry*, thro' the *Sides* of the *Miniſter*. Such *Slights*, and *Provocations*, certainly were a *Sufficient* Ground for the *Apoſtle* to Inſiſt upon his *Character*, leſt the *Goſpel* ſhould Suffer by it; And with *Authority* to Rebuke the *Ingratitude* of the *Corinthians*, and *Vindicate* his *Dignity*, and *Tranſcendent Excellencies*, againſt the baſe *Lyes*, and *Calumnies* caſt upon Him by ſuch *Falſe Apoſtles*, *Deceitful Workers*, *Transforming themſelves into the Apoſtles of Chriſt*, *like their True Father the* Devil, *Transforming himſelf into an Angel of Light*. With what Juſtice then might He here ſtand upon the *Compariſon*, when thus vilely *Run down*, by ſuch *Wretched*, *Empty*, *Hypocritical Sophiſters*? To Appeal to his *Spiritual Gifts*, and *Revelations*, and *Sufferings*, in Competition with ſuch *Impudent Boaſting*, *Self-conceited Pretenders*, was the Loweſt Act of *Humility*, and *Good-Nature*; to Condeſcend to *Diſpute* with ſuch as ought to be *Anſwer'd*, not with *Arguments*, but *Anathema's*! Yet behold the Singular *Modeſty* of this *Great Apoſtle*! He cannot enter upon his Own *Juſtification*, without much Reluctance, and a long *Apology* to introduce it. *I am become a Fool in Glorying*, (ſays He,) *but You have Compell'd Me to it. I ſpeak as concerning Reproach*, *as tho' We had been Weak*: *Howbeit*, *wherein any is Bold*, *I ſpeak fooliſhly*, *I am Bold alſo. Are They Hebrews? ſo am I! Are They Iſraelites? ſo am I! Are They the Seed of Abraham? ſo am I! Are They Miniſters of Chriſt? I ſpeak as a Fool*, *I am more. In Labours more Abundant*, *in Stripes above Meaſure*, *in Priſons more frequent*, *in Deaths often*; *of the Jews Five times receiv'd I Forty Stripes*, *ſave One. Thrice was I beaten with* Rods, *Once was I Ston'd*, *Thrice I ſuffer'd Shipwreck*, *a Night and a Day have I been in the Deep. In Journeyings often*, *in Perils of Waters*, *in Perils of* Robbers, *in Perils by my own Country-men*, *in Perils by the Heathen*, *in Perils in the City*, *in Perils in the Wilderneſs*, *in Perils in the Sea*, *in Perils amongſt* FALSE BRETHREN. In this *Rhetorical Abridgment* of the *Sufferings*, and *Dangers* of his *Life*, there's a very *Obſervable Gradation*; the *Apoſtle* ſtill *Riſes* in his *Calamities*, and puts this *Laſt* as the *Higheſt Perfection* of his *Miſery*, as that which made the *deepeſt Impreſſion* upon his *Paſſions*, and what He bore with the Greateſt *Reſentment*, and *Difficulty*. The many ſevere *Pains*, and *Tortures* inflicted on his *Body*, were *nothing* to *This*; nay, the *Good-Nature*, and *Mercy* of *Highway-Men*, and *Pagans*, and even the *Devouring Boſom* of the *Deep*, were to be *Preferr'd* before and ſooner (it ſeems) to be *Truſted* to, than the more certainly *Deſtructive*, and *Fallacious Boſom* of a *Treacherous FALSE BROTHER*.

I ſhall take the Expreſſion in its full *Latitude*, without confining it to the expreſs Deſign of the Place; tho' it were very Obvious to draw a *Parallel* here, betwixt the ſad *Circumſtances* of the *Church of Corinth* formerly, and of the *Church of England* at preſent; wherein Her *Holy Communion* has been *Rent*, and *Divided* by *Factious*, and *Schiſmatical Impoſtors*; Her *Pure Doctrine* has been *Corrupted*, and *Defil'd*; Her *Primitive*

*mitive Worſhip* and *Diſcipline Prophan'd*, and *Abus'd*; Her *Sacred Orders Deny'd*, and *Vilify'd*; Her *Prieſts*, and *Profeſſors* (like St. *Paul*,) *Calumniated*, *Miſrepreſented*, and *Ridicul'd*; Her *Altars*, and *Sacraments Proſtituted* to *Hypocrites*, *Deiſts*, *Socinians*, and *Atheiſts*; and this done, I wiſh I could not ſay, without *Diſcouragement*, I am ſure with *Impunity*, not only by Our *Profeſs'd Enemies*, but which is worſe, by Our *Pretended Friends*, and FALSE BRETHREN. But to proceed to the Matter before Us: In my Diſcourſe upon theſe Words, I ſhall endeavour,

I. *Firſt*, To ſhew in what *Senſe*, and upon what *Accounts* Men may be Denominated FALSE BRETHREN.

II. *Secondly*, I will lay before you the Great PERIL, and *Miſchief* of ſuch both in *Church*, and *State*.

III. *Thirdly*, I will ſet forth the Heinous *Malignity*, Enormous *Guilt* and *Folly* of this *Prodigious Sin*.

IV. *Laſtly*, As a Conſequence from the whole, I will undertake to Evince what mighty Reaſon We have at all Times, and more eſpecially *at preſent*, to *Stick* firmly to the *Principles* both of Our *Church*, and *Conſtitution*; and how much it *concerns* Us to *Beware* of all thoſe FALSE BRETHREN, that *Deſert*, or *Betray* them.

I. And *Firſt*, *I will ſhew in what Senſe, and upon what Accounts Men may be denominated FALSE BRETHREN.* In order to which it will be Neceſſary to State the full Extent of the Nature of *FALSE BROTHERHOOD*.

This Term Ψευδαδελφία being of a *Relative* Signification, muſt Reſpect Men as conſider'd under all *Social Caſes*, or as they are plac'd under ſuch *Regards*, and *Circumſtances*, as in Duty *Oblige* them both to *Think*, *Speak*, and *Act*, with *Truth*, and *Integrity*, correſpondent to their *Inward Principles*, and *Outward Profeſſions*. And wherein they are found *Deviating Wilfully* from Either, by an unreaſonable *Alteration* of *Judgment*, by any *Tacit Mental Reſerve*, or *Equivocation*, upon any *Indirect Ends*, or *Deſigns*, or Guiding their *Expreſſions* and *Actions* contrary to theſe *Stated Rules*, they are Guilty of *Falſhood*, both in *Conſcience*, and *Practice*, of a Breach of that *Veracity*, *Juſtice*, and *Truſt*, that they owe to *God*, *Themſelves*, and the *World*, and are properly what are ſtyl'd in the Text FALSE BRETHREN. For whereas every Man that either *Believes*, *Speaks*, or *Acts Rationally*, muſt be ſuppos'd to have ſome *Standing-Ground*, and *Meaſure* of *Judgment*, ſettl'd upon ſome Grand, Primitive *Maxims* of *Truth*, both *Speculative*, and *Practical*, whether founded upon *Revelation*, *Reaſon*, or *Honour*, which are what we call any Man's *Principles* either in *Religion*, *Society*, or *Friendſhip*: If theſe *Fundamental Axioms* have with true Deliberation been *Sifted*, and *Weigh'd*, not only as to their *Intrinſic Nature*, and *Goodneſs*, but as to their *Outward Tendency*, and *Conſequences*, they muſt appear, tho' not perhaps as *Infallible* in *Themſelves*, yet with Reſpect to the *Perſon* ſo conſidering them, as *Demonſtrative Truths*, as the *Light*, and *Oracles* of *God*, and *Reaſon*, ſet up in his *Breaſt*; by which He is always *Oblig'd* to *Direct*, and *Govern* his *Thoughts*, *Reſolutions*, and *Actions*; and which if he *ſwerves* from, *Diſowns*, or *Betrays*, upon any *Siniſter Motive*

*tive* whatsoever, (tho' after this Nice Search they should prove *Erroneous*) involve the Man in a very Heinous Sin, *Treacherously* acting against his *Judgment*, and *Giving the Lye* both to his *Faith*, his *Reason*, and his *Knowledge*. This Matter being thus briefly *Premis'd*, it is Evident, that with *Regard* to the several *Objects* it is Conversant about, Men may in *Three Respects* be term'd Guilty of FALSE BROTHERHOOD.

1. *First*, With Relation to *God*, the *Church*, or *Religion*, in which they hold *Faith*, or *Communion*.
2. *Secondly*, With Relation to the *State*, *Government*, or *Society*, of which they are *Members*.
3. *Thirdly*, With Relation to those *Private Persons*, with whom they have either *Friendship*, *Correspondence*, or *Dealing*.

1. And *First*, *He is a* FALSE BROTHER *with Relation to God, Religion, or the Church in which He holds Communion*, that *Believes*, *Maintains*, or *Propagates* any *False*, or *Heterodox Tenet*, or *Doctrine*, Repugnant to the Express *Declarations* of *Scripture*, and the *Decrees*, or *Sense* of the *Church*, and *Antiquity* thereupon. For as in the *First Alone* are contain'd the *Essential Points*, and *Articles* of Our most Holy *Faith*; so the *Primitive Expositions*, *Decisions*, and *Practice* of the *Ancient Writers* of the *Pure*, and *Uncorrupted Ages* of *Christianity*, must certainly be acknowledg'd the *Best*, and most *Authentick Comments* upon their *Meaning*. In *Opposition* to which, if any *Upstart Novelist*, or *Self-conceited Enthusiast*, out of *Pride*, as setting *Himself* above these *Genuine Oracles* of *Truth*; or out of *Ignorance*, as being *Unacquainted* with the *Learning*, and *Records* of *Antiquity*; or out of *Perverseness*, scorning to *Submit* his *Understanding* to the *Dictates*, or Better *Reason* of *Others*; or out of *Ambition*, and *Vain-Glory*, as Affecting to be the *Head*, and *Leader* of some *New Sect*, or *Party*; (All, or *Either* of which have, and will be found for ever the *Parents* of *Heresy*) and should *Break in* upon this *Sacred Depositum* of the *Church*; and should Attempt *Blasphemously* to *Corrupt* that Inviolable *Fountain* of Truth, with *Erroneous Conjectures*, and Vain *Philosophical Systems*; to *Prophane*, and *Degrade* the *Holy Mysteries* of Religion, by Absurd *Interpretations*, and Impudent *Reasonings*; should we stick to call such a *Rebel to God*, and *Traytor* to his *Church*, a FALSE BROTHER? If a Man should Dare not only to *Revive*, but to *Justify* any *Execrable*, Exploded *Heresies*, as those of *Arrius*, and *Nestorius*, denying the *Hypostatical Union*, or the *Eternity* of the *Son of God*; or should affirm that *He was God in Man*, or that *the Godhead was only locally in his Manhood*, as *God was in the Cloud*, or that should Presume to *Evacuate* the *Great Sanction* of the *Gospel*, the *Eternity of Hell-Torments*; or Expound any of the *Articles* of *Our Faith*, in such a *Loose*, and *Vagrant* way, as may suit 'em as well to a *Mahometan's* as a *Christian's Creed*; and to *lay open* all those *Sacred Boundaries* of the *Church*, to let in all *Sectarists*, and *Schismaticks*, of whatsoever *Wild*, *Romantic*, or *Enthusiastic Notions*, so as to make the *House of God*, not only a *Den of Thieves*, but a Receptacle of *Legions of Devils*: Should we cover such a *False Apostle* under the *Sacred Umbrage* of a *True Church-Man*? In short, whosoever presumes to *Recede* the least *Tittle* from the *express Word* of *God*, or to explain the Great *Credenda* of Our *Faith* in *New-fangl'd Terms* of *Modern Philosophy*, must publish

liſh a *New Goſpel*, *Un-God* his Saviour, and *Deſtroy* his *Revelation*; and by unſettling the *Univerſal*, *Receiv'd Doctrine* of the *Church*, give up Chriſtianity into *Scepticiſm*, and *Atheiſm*; and to ſpeak the beſt of his *Character*, is FALSE both to his *God*, and his *Religion*, and *ſhall be call'd hereafter*, *The leaſt in the Kingdom of Heaven*, how *Great* ſoever he may be in the *Kingdoms* here *below*. And as a Man may thus *Betray* the *Doctrine of his Church*, ſo is he no leſs FALSE to its *Intereſt*, that gives up any *Point* of her *Diſcipline*, and *Worſhip*. Theſe are the *Exterior Fences* to *Guard* the *Internals* of *Religion*, without which they are left *Naked*, without *Beauty*, *Order*, or *Defence*. Should any Man, out of *Ignorance*, or *Prejudice*, to the Antient *Rights*, and *Eſſential Conſtitution* of the *Catholic Church*, affirm, That the *Divine Apoſtolical Inſtitution of Epiſcopacy*, *is a Novel Doctrine*, *not ſufficiently Warranted by Scripture*, and *that 'tis Indifferent whether the Church is Govern'd by Biſhops*, or *Presbyters*; Is not ſuch a One an *Apoſtate* from his Own *Orders*? Let the Chriſtian World be Judge, who beſt *Deſerve* the Name of *Church-Men*, thoſe that *ſtrictly Defend*, and *Maintain* the *Catholic Doctrines* upon which the *Church*, as a *Society*, is *Founded*; or thoſe who would *Barter* them for a *Mungril-Union* of All *Sects*? Thoſe who Zealouſly ſupport her *Miſſion*, which only can *Support* her, or thoſe who would *Deſtroy* it, to take in *Schiſmatical Presbyters* without *Epiſcopal Ordination*, which would *Un-Church* the very *Church*, and *Annihilate* her Conſtitution? Is this the *Spirit*, and *Doctrine* of Our Holy Mother? To aſſert *Separation* from Her *Communion*, to be no *Schiſm*; or if it was, that *Schiſm* is no *Damnable Sin*; that *Occaſional Conformity* is no *Hypocriſy*, *but rather for the Benefit of the Church*; that *any One may be an Occaſional Conformiſt with Schiſmaticks*, and *yet not Guilty of Schiſm*; that a *Chriſtian* may ſerve God in any *Way* or *Congregation of Worſhip*, as well by *Extemporary Prayers*, as by a *Preſcrib'd Form*, and *Liturgy*; that *Conformity* to the Church and *Eccleſiaſtical Authority*, are no *Parts* of *Morality*, and a *Good Life*, which are *only neceſſary* to Salvation: That the *Orders* and *Ceremonies* of the *Church*, are only *Carnal*, *Arbitrary Ordinances*, to be *Diſpens'd* with as Men pleaſe, both by *Clergy* and *Laity*; that the *Cenſures*, and *Excommunications* of the *Church*, are meer *Brutа Fulmina*, *Canonical Obedience*, and *Abſolution*, *Spiritual Tyranny*, and *Uſurpation*; and in a Word, that the *Whole Body* of the *Worſhip*, and *Diſcipline* of the *Church of England*, is nothing elſe but *Prieſtcraft* and *Popery* in *Maſquerade*. If upon all Occaſions to comply with the *Diſſenters* both in *Publick*, and *Private* Affairs, as Perſons of *Tender Conſciences*, and *Piety*, to promote their *Intereſts* in *Elections*, to *Sneak* to 'em for *Places*, and *Preferment*, to Defend *Toleration*, and *Liberty of Conſcience*, and under the pretence of *Moderation*, to excuſe Their *Separation*, and lay the Fault upon the *True Sons of the Church*, for *carrying Matters too high*; if to Court the *Fanaticks*, in Private, and to hear 'em with *Patience*, if not *Approbation*, *Rail* at, and *Blaſpheme* the *Church*, and upon occaſion to *Juſtify* the *King's Murther*; If to *Flatter* both the *Dead* and the *Living* in their *Vices*, and to tell the World, that if they have *Wit*, and *Money* enough, they need no *Repentance*, and that only *Fools* and *Beggers* can be *Damn'd*; If theſe, I ſay, are the *Modiſh*, and Faſhionable *Criterions* of a *True-Church-Man*, God deliver *Us All from ſuch* FALSE BRETHREN!

There

There is another ſort of them who are for a *Neutrality in Religion*, who *Really* are of *None*, but are a *ſecret* ſort of *Reſerv'd Atheiſts*, who always pretend to be *of* the *Church*, Join'd in the *Herd*, and will ſometimes frequent Our *Publick Communion*, as long as the *Government* appears on Our ſide; but if any thing is to be got by it, can with as *ſafe a Conſcience* ſlide privately into a *Conventicle*, and look as *Demure* as the *ſlyeſt Saint* amongſt 'em. They are equally of *All*, and of *No Communion*, they are the *Gallio's* that *care for none of theſe Things*; They tell Us they are for the *Religion Eſtabliſh'd by Law*, but no longer than 'tis ſo; they can ſee neither Sin, nor Danger in that *Eccleſiaſtical Bugbear*, as they call *Schiſm*, yet talk very loud about *Union*, *Comprehenſion*, and *Moderation*; by all which *Canting Expreſſions*, they mean nothing but Getting *Money*, and *Preferment*, by holding in with Perſons of all *Parties*, and *Characters*, *Halting* betwixt a *Diverſity* of Opinions, and *Reconciling God*, and *Belial* for Gain. To theſe we may add thoſe who either out of *Fear*, or *Complaiſance*, can tamely, and without Vindication, hear their *God*, and *Religion* Blaſphem'd and Abus'd. But there are *another ſort* of FALSE BRETHREN, who ſet up for a greater *Perfection in Piety* than their Nighbours, who like their Originals, the *Phariſees* in the Goſpel, are always Pleading their *Merits* before *God*, and the *World*, with an *Oſtentation* of *Sanctity*, in compariſon with their *Profane Brethren*, with *a Stand-off, for I am Holier than Thou!* Theſe are the *Saints*, that under the Pretence of *Conſcience*, ſhall Commit the moſt *Abominable Impieties*, and Juſtify *Murder*, *Sacriledge*, and *Rebellion*, by Texts of Scripture. There are yet another Sort of FALSE BRETHREN, of a quite *Oppoſite Character* to theſe, who wiſh well to the *Church of England*, and *really Believe* Her *Conſtitution* in *Doctrine*, *Diſcipline*, and *Worſhip*, the Beſt, and Pureſt in the *Chriſtian World*; and when either their *Tongues*, *Hands*, or *Purſes* are wanting in Her *Defence*, are ready to *Sacrifice* their *Perſons*, and *Eſtates* in Her *Vindication*. Theſe indeed are *Noble Qualifications*, and 'tis pity ſo *Good a Character* ſhould want any thing to *Compleat* it. And to turn the Words of our *Bleſſed Saviour*, to the *Rich Man*, *Yet One thing thou lackeſt*, thy Zeal is to be ſhewn *In*, as well as *For*, the Communion of the *Church*, in *Obeying* Her *Precepts*, as well as *Defending* Her *Rights*. In all theſe *Caſes* there is a *Serious*, and *Deliberate Act* of *Treachery* againſt *Conſcience* and *Conviction*, a Baſe *Forfeiture* of that *Spiritual Allegiance* We owe to *God*, and Our *Church*, as a Sacred *Body*, and *Fraternity*, that ought to Preſerve Inviolable *Unity*, profeſſing *One Faith*, *One Baptiſm*, *One God*, and *Saviour* of Us All.

2. But *Secondly*, *Men may be denominated* FALSE BRETHREN, *with relation to the State, Government, or Society of which they are Members.* The *Conſtitutions* of moſt *Governments* differing according to their *ſeveral Frames*, and *Laws*, upon which they are *Built*, and *Founded*; it is impoſſible to lay down any *One Univerſal Rule*, as the *Scheme*, and *Meaſure* of *Obedience*, that may *ſquare* to every one of them. Only this *Maxim* in *general*, I preſume, may be *Eſtabliſh'd* for the *Safety*, *Tranquility*, and *Support* of *All Governments*, That no *Innovation* whatſoever ſhould be *Allow'd* in the *Fundamental Conſtitution* of any *State*, without a very *Preſſing*, nay *Unavoidable Neceſſity* for it; and whoſoever

whoſoever *Singly*, or in a *Private Capacity* ſhould attempt it, is Guilty of the *Higheſt Miſdemeanour*, and is an Enemy to that *Politick Body* of which he is a *Member*. To apply this *Maxim* to *Our Government*, in which the *Truth* of it will very evidently *Appear*. Our *Conſtitution* both in *Church*, and *State*, has been ſo admirably *Contriv'd*, with that *Wiſdom*, *Weight*, and *Sagacity*, and the *Temper*, and *Genius* of each, ſo exactly *Suited*, and *Model'd* to the *Mutual Support*, and *Aſſiſtance* of Oneanother, that 'tis hard to ſay, whether the *Doctrines* of the *Church of England* contribute *more* to *Authorize*, and *Enforce* Our *Civil Laws*, or Our *Laws* to *Maintain*, and *Defend* the *Doctrines* of Our *Church*. The Natures of both are ſo nicely *Correſpondent*, and ſo happily *Intermixt*, that 'tis almoſt impoſſible to offer a *Violation* to the *One*, without *Breaking* in upon the *Body* of the *Other*. So that in all thoſe *Caſes* before-mention'd, whoſoever *Preſumes* to *Innovate*, *Alter*, or *Miſrepreſent* any *Point* in the *Articles* of the *Faith* of *Our Church*, ought to be *Arraign'd* as a *Traytor* to Our *State*; *Heterodoxy* in the *Doctrines* of the *One*, Naturally producing, and almoſt *Neceſſarily Inferring Rebellion*, and *High-Treaſon* in the *Other*, and conſequently a *Crime* that concerns the *Civil Magiſtrate* as much to *Puniſh*, and *Reſtrain*, as the *Eccleſiaſtical*. However this *Aſſertion* at firſt View may look like an *High-ſtown Paradox*, the Proof of it will fully appear in a few *Inſtances*. The *Grand Security* of Our *Government*, and the very *Pillar* upon which it *ſtands*, is founded upon the *ſteady Belief* of the *Subject's Obligation* to *Abſolute*, and *Unconditional Obedience* to the *Supream Power*, in *All* Things *Lawful*, and the utter *Illegality* of *Reſiſtance* upon any *Pretence* whatſoever. But this *Fundamental Doctrine*, notwithſtanding its *Divine Sanction* in the *Expreſs Command* of *God* in *Scripture*, and without which, it is impoſſible any *Government*, of any *Kind*, or *Denomination* in the World, ſhould ſubſiſt with Safety, and which has been ſo long the *Honourable*, and *Diſtinguiſhing Characteriſtic* of *Our Church*, is now, it ſeems, quite *Exploded*, and *Ridicul'd* out of Countenance, as an *Unfaſhionable*, *Superannuated*, nay, (which is more wonderful) as a *Dangerous Tenet*, utterly inconſiſtent with the *Right*, *Liberty*, and *Property* of the PEOPLE; who as Our *New Preachers*, and *New Politicians* teach us, (I ſuppoſe by a *New*, and *Unheard-of Goſpel*, as well as *Laws*) have in Contradiction to *Both*, the *Power* Inveſted in *Them*, the Fountain and *Original* of it, to *Cancel* their *Allegiance* at pleaſure, and call their *Sovereign* to account for *High-Treaſon* againſt his *Supream Subjects* forſooth! nay, to *Dethrone*, and *Murder* Him for a Criminal, as they did the *Royal Martyr*, by a *Judiciary* Sentence. And what is almoſt incredible, preſume to make their *Court* to their *Prince*, by maintaining ſuch *Anti-monarchical Schemes*. But God be Thanked! neither the Conſtitution of Our *Church* or *State*, is ſo far *Alter'd*, but that by the *Laws of Both*, (*ſtill* in Force, and which I hope *for ever* will be) theſe *Damnable Poſitions*, let 'em come either from *Rome*, or *Geneva*, from the *Pulpit*, or the *Preſs*, are condemned for *Rebellion*, and *High-Treaſon*. Our Adverſaries think they effectually ſtop Our Mouths, and have Us ſure and Unanſwerable on this Point, when they urge the *Revolution of this Day* in their *Defence*. But certainly They are the Greateſt *Enemies* of *That*, and His *Late Majeſty*, and the moſt *Ungrateful* for the *Deliverance*, who endeavour

deavour to cast such *Black* and *Odious* Colours upon Both. How often must they be told, that the * *King Himself* solemnly *Disclaim'd* the Least Imputation of *Resistance* in his *Declaration*; and that the *Parliament* declar'd, That they set the *Crown* on his Head, upon no other *Title*, but that of the *Vacancy* of the *Throne*? And did they not Unanimously condemn to the Flames, (as it justly-Deserv'd) that *Infamous Libel*, that would have *Pleaded* the *Title* of *Conquest*! by which *Resistance* was suppos'd? So *Tender* were they of the *Regal* Rights, and so averse to infringe the least Tittle of Our *Constitution*! We see how ready these *Incendiaries* are to take the least Umbrage, to charge their own *Cursed Tenets* on the *Church of England*, to Derive *their Guilt* upon it, and Quit *Scores* with it for *their Iniquity*! Thus do they endeavour to draw *Comparisons*, and to Justify the horrid *Actions* and *Principles* of *Forty-One*, which have been of late Years, to the Scandal of Our *Church*, and Nation, so *Publickly* Defended, not only by the *Agents* and *Writers* of the *Republican Faction*, but by some that have the *Confidence* to Style themselves *Sons*, and *Presbyters* of the *Church of England*; who in open *Defiance* of the most *peremptory Declarations* of God in *Scripture*, (never to be evaded by any *Shifts*, or *Misinterpretations*) and the *Universal Doctrine*, and *Expositions* of the *Catholick Church* upon it in all *Ages*, with the *express Testimony*, and *Concurrence* of Our *Church*, from its *Reformation*, down to the *Present Times*, *Corroborated* with the *Sense* of Our *Legislature*, so *unexceptionably Confirm'd* in Our *Laws*, Dare in *Despight* and *Contempt* of all this *Evidence*, manifestly Defend the *Resistance of the Supream Power*, under a *New-fangl'd Notion* of *Self-defence*, the only Instance they shew of *Shame*, that they dare not YET, maintain *Rebellion* by its *Proper Name*. Yet, if those *silly Pretences*, and *weak Excuses* for it alledg'd, carry any *Strength* of *Reason* in them at all, they will equally serve to *Justify* all the *Rebellions* that ever *were*, or *can* be committed in the World. Now, as the *Republicans* Copy after the *Papists* in most of their *Doctrines* and *Practices*, I would fain know in *this*, where the *Difference* lies, betwixt the *Power Granted* to (as 'tis suppos'd Originally *invested*, but from what *Commission* God knows in) the *People*, to *Judge* and *Dethrone* their *Sovereigns*, for any *Cause* they *think* fit, or a *no less Usurp'd Power* of the *Pope*, to *Solve* the *People* from their *Allegiance*, and *dispose* of *Scepters* and *Diadems* to his *Favourites*, whenever he thinks it his *Interest* to pluck them from his *Enemies* Heads. *Comparisons* are generally *Odious*; but a *Learned Bishop of Our Kingdom*, whose Aversion to *Popery* I

* His *Highness* Declares, in *Opposition* to those who give out, That We do intend to CONQUER and ENSLAVE these NATIONS, that we have thought fit to add a few Words to our *Declaration*; "It is not "to be imagin'd, that either *those* who have *Invited* Us, or *those* who "are already come to *Assist* Us, can *Joyn* in a *WICKED ATTEMPT* of CONQUEST, to make void their Own *Lawful Titles* to their *Honours*, *Estates*, and *Interests*. *See the Prince of* "Orange's *Declaration*. Dr. Kennet's *History of the Four Last Reigns*, "pag. 493.

hope,

hope, is not doubted, I mean the * Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of *Sarum*, has been Bold Judiciously to Determin, even on the *Papist*'s Side in this Case, That if such a *Deposing Power* is to be entrusted in *Mortal's Hands*, less *Inconveniences* will ensue in placing it in *One*, than in *Many*, tho' God forbid it ever should be Lodg'd in any other than that of *God* himself, the *Original* of all Power, from whom it proceeds, and to whom it must Return, the *King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and* ONLY *Ruler of Princes*. So that these *Romantic wild* Notions will carry Us into something *worse*, (if 'tis possible) than *Popery* it self, more *Fatal* to the *Rights* and *Interests* of the *Crown*; and the *Welfare*, and *Tranquillity* of Our *Constitution*, which can never be *Safe* under such *Precarious Dependencies*, and *Despotic Imaginations*. A *Prince* indeed, in *another* Sense, *will be the Breath of his Subject's Nostrils*, to be Blown in, or out, at their *Caprice*, and *Pleasure*, and a worse Vassal than even the meanest of his Guards. Such *Villainous* and *Seditious Principles* as these, *Demand* a *Confutation* from that *Government* they so *insolently Threaten*, and *Arraign*, and which are only *Proper* to be *Answer'd* by *that Sword* they would make our Princes *bear in vain*, by the *So-long-call'd-for Censure* of an *Ecclesiastical Synod*, and the *Correction* of a Provok'd and Affronted *Legislature*, to whose Strict *Justice*, and undeserv'd *Mercy*, I commit both *them* and Their *Authors*. Only give me leave to dismiss 'em with a *Remark* of the *Pious* and *Learned* Bishop *Andrews* upon some of their FALSE BRETHREN in his Time. † '*What* (says that 'good Prelate) *is now become of those Words of God, Touch not mine A-*'*nointed? Are we not fallen into Strange Times, that Men dare thus Print* '*and Publish, yea, even Preach and Proclaim their Sins; even those sinful* '*and shameless Positions, to the Eyes, and Ears of the whole World? Where-*'*by God's Anointed are Endanger'd, Men's Souls are Poyson'd, Christian* '*Religion is Blasphem'd as a Murtherer of her Own Kings; God in his* '*Charge is openly Contradicted, and Men made Believe, they shall go to* '*Heaven in breaking God's Commandments.* What could have been spoken with a more *Prophetical* Spirit, of these *filthy* Dreamers, these *Presumptuous and Self-will'd Men*, Despisers of Dominion, and Government, who *are not afraid to speak Evil of* Dignities, who *wrest the Word of God to their* Own, and their deluded *People's Perdition*, and think to *Consecrate* even the worst of Sins, with what is almost *Analogous* to the *Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost!* These FALSE BRETHREN in Our *Government*, do not *Singly*, and in *Private* spread their *Poyson*, but (what is lamentable to be spoken)

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* Less *Disorder* may be apprehended from the *Pretensions* of the *Roman Bishops*, than from *these Maxims*, that put the *Power* of *Judging* and *Controlling* the *Magistrate* in the PEOPLE's Hands, which opens a Door to *Endless Confusions*, and indeed, sets every *Private Person* upon the *Throne*, and introduceth an *Anarchy*, which will never admit of *Order*, and *Remedy*: whereas, Those who have but *One* PRETENDER over Them, could more easily deal with *Him*, and more Vigorously RESIST Him. [*Vindication of the Church of* Scotland, *Printed at* Glasgow, 1673. pag. 68, 69.

† Sermon 3. on the Conspiracy of the *GOWRIES*, Preach'd before the King at *Holdenbeigh*, *Aug.* 5. 1610. p. 808.

are

are ſuffer'd to combine into *Bodies*, and *Seminaries*, wherein *Atheiſm*, *Deiſm*, *Tritheiſm*, *Socinianiſm*, with all the *Helliſh Principles* of *Fanaticiſm*, *Regicide*, and *Anarchy*, are openly *Profeſs'd*, and *Taught*, to *Corrupt* and *Debauch* the *Youth* of the *Nation*, in all *Parts* of it, down to *Poſterity*, to the *Preſent Reproach*, and *Future Extirpation* of Our *Laws*, and *Religion*. Certainly the *Toleration* was never intended to *Indulge*, and *Cheriſh* ſuch *Monſters*, and *Vipours* in our Boſom, that *ſcatter their Peſtilence at Noon-day*, and will *Rend*, *Diſtract*, and *Confound*, the firmeſt and *Beſt-ſettl'd Conſtitution* in the World. In ſhort, as the *Engliſh Government* can never be Secure on any other *Principles*, but *ſtrictly Thoſe* of the *Church of England*, ſo I will be bold to ſay, where any Part of it is *Truſted* in Perſons of any *Other Notions*, they muſt be *Falſe* to *Themſelves*, if They are *True* to their *Truſt*; or if They are *True* to Their *Opinions*, and *Intereſts*, muſt *Betray* that *Government* They are *Enemies* to upon *Principle*. Indeed, We muſt do 'em that Juſtice, to confeſs, That ſince the *Sectariſts* have found out a way (which their *Fore-Fathers*, God knows, as Wicked as they were, would have Abhorr'd) to ſwallow not only *Oaths*, but *Sacraments*, to *Qualify* themſelves to get into *Places*, and *Preferments*; theſe *Sanctify'd Hypocrites* can put on a *ſhew* of *Loyalty*, and ſeem *tolerably* Eaſy in the *Government*, if they can Engroſs the *Honours* and *Profits* of it: But let *Her Majeſty reach out Her little Finger to touch their Loyns*, and theſe *Sworn Adverſaries* to *Paſſive Obedience*, and the *Royal Family*, *ſhall fret themſelves*, *and Curſe their Queen*, *and their God*, *and ſhall look upwards*. And ſo much for Our *Political* FALSE BRETHREN, till I come to ſpeak with 'em again by and by. I proceed,

3. In the Third Place, to a more *Inferior Species* of Them, that *Act in a Lower Sphere*, namely, *Thoſe who in their Private Capacities*, *are FALSE either in their Friendſhip*, *Correſpondence*, *or Dealing*. But theſe *Sins of Unfaithfulneſs*, as the *Pſalmiſt* calls them, being of ſo *Copious*, and *Extenſive* a Nature, and Reſpecting the *Private Concerns* of *Human Life*, I ſhall only trouble You with enumerating ſome of the *General Inſtances* of them: Such as are, *Betraying Our Friend* in his *Secrets*, *Deſerting* him in his *Misfortunes*, in not *Defending* his *Reputation*, when *falſely Accus'd*, in an *Obſequious Compliance* with Him in any *Indirect*, or *Diſhonourable Meaſures*, in a Nauſeous *Flattery* of his *Follies*, or *Vices*, in *Permitting* him in any *Error*, without *Admonition*, and in giving him *wrong Advice*, and not leading him out of it. Such are alſo, with regard to Our *Neighbour*, the *Concealing*, or *Miſrepreſenting* any *Truth* that he is *Concern'd* to *know*, *Playing* upon his *Faith* with *Doubtful* and *Ambiguous Inſinuations*, with *Double Equivocations*, and *Diſſimulatory Expreſſions*, an *actual Breach* of *Word*, *Promiſe*, or *Profeſſion*, *Clandeſtine Undermining* by *Circumvention*, *Fraud*, or *Craft*, *Back-biting*, and ſecretly Slandering, *Propagating Scandal*, and *Bearing Falſe Witneſs*, and *Partaking* ſeveral ways in his *Sins*; which are all the *Characteriſticks* of an *Inſidious*, *Treacherous*, and *Falſe-hearted Knave*. But theſe *Vices* being of a *Private Conſideration*, I haſten to the next *General Head* propos'd. *Namely*,

II. Secondly, *To lay before you the great Peril*, *and Miſchiefs of theſe FALSE BRETHREN in Church and State*; which I ſhall endeavour

to

to do, by Proving that They *Weaken*, *Undermine*, and *Betray* in *Themselves*, and *Encourage*, and put it in the *Power* of Our *Profess'd Enemies*, to *Overturn* and *Destroy* the *Constitution*, and *Establishment* of *Both*.

1. And First, as to the *Church*. But here it is very *Necessary* to Premise, That by the *Church of England*, We are to understand the *True Genuine Notion* of it, as it stands *Contra-distinguish'd* in its *Establish'd Doctrine*, *Discipline*, and *Worship*, from all Other *Churches*, and *Schismaticks*, who would *Obtrude* upon Us, a *Wild*, *Negative Idea* of a NATIONAL CHURCH, so as to *Incorporate Themselves* into the *Body* as *True Members of it*; whereas 'tis evident that this *Latitudinarian*, *Heterogeneous Mixture* of all Persons of what different *Faith* soever, *Uniting* in *Protestancy*, (which is but one *Single Note* of the *Church of England*) would render it the most *Absurd*, *Contradictory*, and *Self-inconsistent Body* in the World. This *Spurious*, and *Villainous Notion*, which will take in *Jews*, *Quakers*, *Mahometans*, and any thing as well as *Christians*, as ridiculously incongruous as 'tis, may be first observ'd, as One of those Prime *Popular Engines*, Our FALSE BRETHREN have made Use of to *Undermine* the very *Essential Constitution* of Our *Church*: which as it stands *Guarded* with its Own *Sacred Fences*, with Her only *true Sons* in Her *Bosom*, may Defy all the *Malice* of the *Devil*, and Her *Enemies*, to *prevail against Her*. But such is Her *hard Fortune*, Her Worst *Adversaries* must be let into Her *Bowels*, under the *holy Umbrage* of *Sons*, who neither *Believe* Her *Faith*, Own Her *Mission*, Submit to Her *Discipline*, or comply with Her *Liturgy*. And to admit this *Religious Trojan Horse*, big with *Arms*, and *Ruine*, into Our *Holy City*, the *Streight Gate* must be laid quite Open, Her *Walls*, and *Inclosures pull'd down*, and an *High-Road* made in upon Her *Communion*, and this *pure Spouse of Christ prostituted* to more *Adulterers* than the *Scarlet Whore* in the *Revelations*. Her *Articles* must be Taught the Confusion of all *Senses*, *Nations*, and *Languages*, to render her a *Babel*, and *Desolation*. This was indeed the ready way to *Fill the House of God*, but with what? with *Pagan Beasts*, instead of *Christian Sacrifices*, with such *Unhallow'd*, *Loathsome* and Detestable Guests, as would have driven out the *Holy Spirit* of God with Indignation. This Pious Design of making Our *House of Prayer a Den of Thieves*, of *Reforming* Our *Church* into a *Chaos*, is well known to have been *Attempted* several times in *this Kingdom*, and lately *within* Our *Memory*, when all Things seem'd to *Favour* it, but that *Good Providence*, which so happily Interpos'd, against the *Ruine* of Our *Church*, and *Blasted* the *Long-projected Scheme* of these *Ecclesiastical Ahitophels*. A Scheme so *Monstrous*, so *Romantic*, and *Absurd*, that 'tis hard to say, whether it had more of *Villany*, or *Folly* in it, and which even the *Sectarists* of all sorts (who will not be satisfy'd with any thing less than Sovereignty) *Exploded* and *Laugh'd* at as *Ridiculous*, and *Impracticable*. It was doubtless a wise way to Exemplify Our *Brotherly Love*, and *Charity* for the *Souls* of Men, to put both *Them* and *Ourselves* into a *Gulph of Perdition*, by throwing up the *Essentials* of Our *Faith*, and the *Uniformity of Our Worship*. But since this *Model* of an *Universal Liberty*, and *Coalition* fail'd, and these FALSE BRETHREN could not carry the *Conventicle* into the *Church*, they are now Resolv'd to bring the *Church* into the *Conventicle*, which will more *Plausibly*, and *Slily*

Effect

Effect her *Ruin*. What could not be gain'd by *Comprehenſion*, and *Toleration*, muſt be brought about by *Moderation*, and *Occaſional Conformity*; that is, what they could not do by *Open Violence*, they will not fail by *Secret Treachery*, to *Accompliſh*. If the *Church* can't be *Pull'd down*, it may be *Blown up*; and no matter with theſe Men *How* 'tis *deſtroy'd*, ſo that it *is deſtroy'd*. Now let Us, I beſeech you in the Name of God, fairly conſider what muſt be the *Conſequence* of this *Scandalous Fluctuation*, and *Trimming* betwixt the *Church*, and *Diſſenters*, both in *Conſcience*, and *Prudence*. Does not this *Innovating* in, *Giving up*, or *Receding from*, any *One Point*, or *Article* in Our *Faith*, *Violate*, and *Effect* the *Whole Frame*, and *Body* of it? Can we either *Add to*, or *Diminiſh from* the *Leaſt Jot* of Our *Religion*? Are we to take its *Conſtitution* as Our *Saviour*, or his *Apoſtles deliver'd it* down to us; or have we Authority to *curtail*, *mangle*, or *alter* it to *Suit* it to the *Pride*, *Humours*, *Caprice*, and *Qualm-ſick Stomachs* of Obſtinate, Moody, Wayward, and Self-conceited *Hypocrites*, and *Enthuſiaſts*? Will not ſuch a Baſe, and *Time-ſerving Compliance*, give the *Enemies of Our Church* an *Occaſion* of *Blaſpheming* Her as *Weak*, and *Inconſiſtent*? Will it not Argue the *Illegality* of Her *Ordinances*, and *Laws*? or that they were too *Rigid*, and wanted an *Abatement*? Will not this *harden*, *encourage*, nay, *juſtify* the *Diſſenters* in their Opinion of their *Separation*, when they ſee ſuch large *Allowances*, and Conceſſions made in its Favour? What *Diſhonourable*, and *Unworthy Opinions* muſt they entertain of the *Prieſts of that Church*, who can *Sacrifice* their moſt Solemn *Declarations*, and *Oaths*, to *Complaiſance*, and *Preferment*? What would be the *End* of all this, but to *eſtabliſh Hereſy*, and *Eraſtianiſm* upon the *Ruins* of Our *Faith*, and *Diſcipline*? Would not this *Spiritual Leger-de-main*, this *fallacious Tricking*, and *Double-dealing*, Eradicate all the *Principles* of *Truth*, and *Honeſty*, or *Piety* out of Mens Minds, make 'em *Unconcern'd*, whether there is *any*, or *no Religion*, Run 'em into an *Univerſal Scepticiſm*, and *Infidelity*, and make 'em All *Atheiſts*, or *Papiſts*? For when they had *Turn'd about*, *and about*, and were grown *Giddy* with *Change*, they would either Give up Themſelves to the *Diſbelief of all Things*, or Reſt their *Weary'd Judgments* in the *Authority* of *that Church alone*, that can Delude 'em with the *Specious Pretences* of an *Infallible Guide*. Thus Our FALSE BRETHREN, as the *Jews* did Our *Bleſſed Saviour*, Crucify his *Church betwixt Thieves*; and as they committed that *execrable Villany* under a *Pretended Fear*, leſt the ROMANS *ſhould come and take away their Place*, *and Nation*, which by *that very Fact* They *brought* upon *Themſelves*: So theſe Men, out of a *fictitious Fear*, leſt the *modern* ROMANS ſhould come, and deſtroy *Our Church*, are Working *that Ruin* they *pretend* to *avoid*, and under a *falſe Zeal* of *Keeping* out *Popery*, are Themſelves infallibly *Bringing* in *That very* POPERY into Our *Kingdom*, with which they ſo *falſely*, and ungratefully endeavour to *attaint the Church of England*, the *Greateſt Bulwark*, and only Safeguard againſt *Popery* in the whole *World*! Tho' it were highly to be wiſh'd that thoſe *excellent Laws* made for Her *Defence*, *and Security*, were at preſent put Strictly into Execution; for the *Roman Catholic* Agents, and Miſſionaries that ſwarm about this Great City, as it were in Defiance and Contempt of them, were never more Buſy in making Proſelytes to their *Su-*

*perſtition*, and *Idolatry*, and Perverting and Debauching *Her Majeſty's Subjects* in every Corner of Our Streets.

2. Thus we ſee how *dangerous* theſe FALSE BRETHREN are to Our *Church*, which is ſo Great, and Conſiderable a *Branch* of our *Civil Conſtitution*, that the *Support* of Our *Government* depends upon *its Welfare*; and what *affects* That, muſt ſtrike at the *Foundation* of our *State*; *Innovations* in *either* tending to the *Subverſion* of their *Laws*, and the Unſettling their *Eſtabliſhment*, and conſequently to *Anarchy*, and *Confuſion*. But to draw this *Argument* more home to the *Point*; I will endeavour to Prove, that Our FALSE BRETHREN are as Deſtructive of our *Civil*, or *Eccleſiaſtical Rights*. For firſt it cannot be deny'd, that tho' they do ſubmit to the *Government*, their *Obedience* is *forc'd*, and *conſtrained*, and therefore ſo *Treacherous*, and *Uncertain*, as never to be *Truſted*, becauſe proceeding upon no *Principle*, but meer *Intereſt* and *Ambition*; and whenever that *changes*, their Allegiance muſt follow it; and therefore (to uſe their *own Expreſſion*) are as much *Occaſional Loyaliſts* to the *State*, as They are *Occaſional Conformiſts* to the *Church*; that is, they will *Betray* either, whenever it is in their *Power*, and They think it for their *Advantage*. FALSEHOOD always implies *Treachery*; and whether that is a *Qualification* for any One to be *Truſted*, eſpecially with the *Guardianſhip* of Our *Church*, or *Crown*, let Our *Governors* conſider. And certainly nothing but the moſt *Sottiſh Infatuation*, can ſo far *Blind* both our *Eyes*, and our *Judgments*, as to make us *Believe*, that the *ſame Cauſes* ſhould not produce the *ſame Effects*, and that the ſame *Latitudinarian*, and *Republican* Notions ſhould not bring forth the ſame *Rebellious*, and Pernicious *Conſequences*. They are pleas'd now to *ſoften* their *Lewd Principles*, and cover their *Dangerous Tenets* with the Name of *Speculative Opinions*; but what *fatal Practices* they have created, and whether theſe *Seditious Thoughts* will not again *exemplify* themſelves in the ſame *Bloody Actions*, We ſhall be *convinc'd*, to our *Sorrow*, if We don't *apprehend* that the *Old Leaven* of their *Fore fathers* is ſtill *Working* in their *Preſent Generation*; and that this *Traditional Poyſon* ſtill remains, in this *Brood* of *Vipers*, to *Sting* Us to *Death*, is ſufficiently *Viſible*, from the *Dangerous Encroachments* They now make upon Our *Government*, and the *Treaſonable Reflexions* They have *Publiſh'd* on Her Majeſty, God bleſs Her! Whoſe *Hereditary Right* to the *Throne*, They have had the Impudence to *deny*, and *cancel*, to make *Her* a *Creature of their own Power*; and that by the ſame *Principles* They plac'd a *Crown* upon Her, They tell Us They (that is the Mob) may Re-aſſume it at their Pleaſure. Nay, now They have advanc'd themſelves from the *Religious Liberty* Our *Gracious Sovereign* has *indulg'd* them, to claim a *Civil Right*, as they *term* it, and to *juſtle* the *Church* out of *Her Eſtabliſhment*, by Hoiſting their *Toleration* into its Place; and to convince Us what *alone* will *ſatisfy* 'em, inſolently Demand the *Repeal of the Corporation*, and *Teſt-Acts*, as an *Eccleſiaſtical Uſurpation*, which indeed under *Her Majeſty* (whom God long Preſerve for its Comfort and Support) is the only *Security* the *Church* has to Depend upon. And which they have ſo far *Eluded* by their Abominable *Hypocriſy*, as to have Undermin'd Her *Foundations*, and *Indanger* the *Government*, by filling it with its *Profeſs'd Enemies*. *Theſe Charges* are ſo *Flagrant* and *Undeniable*, that a Man muſt

be

be very *Weak*, or *something worse*, that thinks or pretends, the *Dissenters* are to be *Gain'd*, or won over by any other *Grants*, and *Indulgencies*, than giving up Our *Whole Constitution*: And he that *recedes* the *least Tittle* from it, to satisfy, or *Ingratiate* with these *Clamorous*, *Insatiable*, and *Church-Devouring Malignants*, knows not what Spirit They are of, or he ought to shew who is a *True Member* of *Our Church*. Have They not ever since their first *Unhappy Plantation* in this Kingdom, by the Intercession of *That False Son* of the *Church*, *Bishop Grindall*, always *Improv'd*, and *Rise* upon their *Demands* in the *Permission* of the *Government*? Insomuch that *Queen Elizabeth*, that was Deluded by that *Perfidious Prelate* to the *Toleration* of the *Genevian Discipline*, found it such an *Headstrong* and *Encroaching Monster*, that in *Eight Years*, *She* foresaw it would *Endanger* the *Monarchy*, as well as the *Hierarchy*: And like a Queen of *True Resolution* and *Pious Zeal* for both, pronounc'd, 'That such were the *Restless Spirits* of that FACTIOUS 'People, that no *Quiet* was to be *Expected* from them, till they were utterly 'Suppress'd. Which, like a *Prudent Princess*, She did by *Wholesome Severities*, that the Crown for many Years sat *Easy* and *Flourishing* on her Head. And had her *Successor*, *King James* but follow'd Her *Wise Politicks*, his Son had never fall'n a *Martyr* to their *Fury*, nor any of his *Unhappy Offspring* suffer'd those *Disastrous Calamities*, which made the *Royal Family* One *continu'd Sacrifice* to their *Malice*. And what better could have been expected from *Miscreants*, *Begot* in *Rebellion*, *Born* in *Sedition*, and *Nurs'd* up in *Faction*? I would not here be Misunderstood, as if I intended to cast the least Invidious Reflection upon that *Indulgence* the Government has condescended to give 'em, which I am sure all those that wish well to Our Church are very ready to Grant to *Consciences truly Scrupulous*; let *Them* enjoy it in the full Limits the *Law* has Prescrib'd. But let them also *move* within their *Proper Sphere*, and not grow *Eccentrick*, and like *Comets* that *Burst* their *Orb*, Threaten the *Ruin*, and *Downfall* of Our *Church* and *State*. Indeed they tell us they have *Relinquish'd* the *Principles*, as well as the *Sins* of their *Fore-fathers*. If so, why do they not *Renounce* their *Schism*, and come *Sincerely* into Our *Church*? Why do they *Pelt* her with more *Blasphemous Libels*, and *Scurrilous Lampoons*, than were ever publish'd in *Oliver's Usurpation*? Have they not lately Villanously Divided us with *Knavish Distinctions* of *High* and *Low-Church*-Men? Are not the *Best Characters* they can give Us, those of *Papists*, *Jacobites*, and *Conspirators*? And what do they mean by all this *Insidious Cant*, but by *False Insinuations*, and raising *Groundless Jealousies*, and *Fears*, to *Imbroil* the *Publick*, and to bring it into that *Confusion*, they are *Suggesting* upon Us? Whether these Men are not *Contriving*, and *Plotting* out Our utter *Ruin*, and whether all those FALSE BRETHREN, that fall in with these *Measures*, and *Designs*, do not contribute basely to it, I leave every Impartial Man that wishes the *Welfare* of Our *Constitution* to Determine: And if we find this true *in Fact*, What Reason have we to think, but that the *National Sins* are *Riven'd* up to a full Maturity, to call down Vengeance from *Providence* on a Church and Kingdom thus *Debauch'd* in its *Principles*, and *Corrupted* in its *Manners*, and instead of the *True Faith*, *Discipline*, and *Worship*, given over to all Licentiousness, both in *Opinion*, and *Practice*, to all *Sensuality*, *Hypocrisy*,

*Lewdneſs*, and *Atheiſm*? And now are we under no *Danger* in theſe *Deplorable Circumſtances*? Muſt we *Lull* Our ſelves under this *ſad Repoſe*, and in ſuch a *Stupid*, *Lethargick Security*, *Embrace* Our *Ruin*? When *Eliſha*, the Great *Prophet of* God, was *Surrounded* with an *Hoſt of Enemies*, that *ſought* for his Life, his *Blind Servant* beheld not the *Peril* his *Maſter* was in, till his *Eyes* were *Open'd* by *Miracle*, and he found himſelf in the *midſt of Horſes and Chariots of Fire*. I pray God we may be out of *Danger*, but we may remember the *King*'s *Perſon* was *Voted* to be ſo, at the *ſame Time* that his *Murtherers* were *Conſpiring* his *Death*. What I have thus freely ſpoken, I hope is as much without Offence, as it proceeds from a good Intention, and a Tender Concern for Her *Majeſty*'s *Perſon*, and *Government*, and an hearty Zeal for the *Honour* and *Safety* of Our Excellent *Church*, and *Conſtitution*. I entreat Your Patience.

III. Briefly to *ſet forth the Heinous Malignity*, *Enormous Guilt and Folly of this Prodigious* Sin *of* FALSE BROTHER-HOOD.

1. And Firſt, With Regard to *God* and *Religion*. It is a moſt Perfidious *Apoſtacy* from, and *Reproach* upon *Both*: It is no Leſs than *Renouncing* Our *Allegiance* to Our *Almighty Sovereign*, an Open *Denial*, and *Proſtitution* of Our moſt Holy *Faith*, and *Church*, upon which Crime God has *Entail'd* ſo many Dreadful *Threats* and *Anathema*'s. It's *Betraying* Our moſt ſolemn *Oaths*, proving *Falſe* to Our *Sacred Truſt*, and *Commiſſion*, *Adminiſtring* to, and *Indulging Men* in the moſt *Mortal Sins*, Endangering both Our *Own*, and the *Salvation* of that *Dear Fleck* for which *Chriſt* Dy'd, by Expoſing it to the *Corruptions* of *Hereſy* and *Schiſm*, the *Impoſtures* of *Falſe-Apoſtles*, and the *Deceit* and *Malice* of *Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing*. It is Deriving the higheſt *Blaſphemy* and *Diſhonour* upon the *Holy Spirit* of *God*, thus to prevaricate with his *Immutable Oracles of Truth*, in *Wreſting* 'em to maintain the moſt *Diabolical Falſehoods*, and *Errors*, and making *Veracity it ſelf the Author*, and *Patronizer* of *Lies*. It is *Forſaking* Our *Baptiſmal Covenant*, baſely *Deſerting* the Glorious *Colours* we are *Liſted under*. Turning *Refugees* from our *Saviour* and his *Adherents* to his *Abjur'd Enemies*. In a Word, to Accompliſh any wretched *Secular Deſign*, to Gratify their *Pride* or *Ambition*, to Feed their *Luſt*, or *Avarice*, to *Wreak* their *Spleen*, or *Revenge* out of *Envy*, or *Diſappointment*, for a Little, paultry *Honour*, *Money*, or *Preferment*. Theſe FALSE BRETHREN will *Renounce* their *Creed*, and *Read the Decalogue backward*, be the very *Reverſe* of Our *Bleſſed Saviour* (whom like their *Primitive Pattern*, they firſt *Sell*, and then *Betray*) *Fall down and Worſhip the very Devil himſelf for the Riches and Honours of this World*.

2. *Secondly*, In Regard to *the World*. What a vaſt *Scandal*, and *Offence* muſt it give to all Perſons of *Piety* and *Integrity*, to ſee Men of *Characters*, and *Stations*, thus *Shift*, and *Prevaricate* with their *Principles*, and *Starting* from their *Religion* upon any Occaſion of *Difficulty*, or *Tryal*, and like the *Diſciples*, flying from, and forſaking Our *Saviour*, when his Life lay at Stake? To ſee Mens *Opinions ſit as Looſe* about 'em as their Garments, to be put on, or off, for *Convenience*? What can *Unwary* Perſons conclude from ſuch *Tergiverſation*, and *Hypocriſy*, but that all Religion is *State-Craft*, and *Impoſture*? That all *Godlineſs is Gain*; and that the *Doctrines* of the *Church*

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lie not so much in her *Articles*, as her *Honours*, and *Revenues*? Without doubt, this *Modern Latitude*, and infamous *Double-dealing*, as it can proceed from nothing but the *rankest Atheism*, so it must *propagate* it wheresoever it goes; and 'tis not question'd, but that the *wonderful Increase*, and *impudent Appearance* of all *Sects* and *Heresies*, in this Kingdom at present, beyond what was ever known in *Former Ages*, is chiefly to be attributed to it. But this *Crime* is as *pernicious* to *Human Society*, as *Religion*, for it destroys all *common Honesty*, *Faith*, and *Credit* in the World, and in the place of it, sets up an *Universal Trade* of *Cousenage*, *Sharping*, *Dissimulation*, and downright *Knavery*. For what *Dependance* can there be upon a Man of no *Principles*? What *Trust* in *Equivocations*, *Evasions*, and *Lies*? Nor indeed could any one be suppos'd so *Sottish*, as to place the least Confidence in these *Men*, did they not *bait* their *Hook*, and *cover* their *Treachery* with the *Sacred* and *Plausible Pretences* of FRIENDSHIP, whereby they are capable of doing *much more Mischief*, than a *bare-fac'd* and *profess'd Enemy*. In what moving and *lively Colours* does the Holy Psalmist paint out the *crafty Insidiousness* of such wilely *Volpones*? *Wickedness* (says he) *is therein*, *Deceit and Guile go not out of their Streets*. *For it is not an Open Enemy that has done me this* Dishonour, *for then I could have born it*: *Neither was it mine Adversary that did magnify himself against me*, *for then peradventure I would have hid my self from him*: *But it was even Thou! my* Companion, *my Guide*, *and mine own* Familiar Friend. *We took sweet* Counsel *together*, *and walked in the House of God as Friends*. *There is no* Faithfulness *in their Mouths*, *their inward Parts are very Wickedness*; *their Throats are Open Sepulchres*, *and their Words are smoother than* Oil, *yet they be very* Swords. *Like* Joab, *they pretend to* speak peaceably, and *smite Us mortally under the fifth Rib*.

3 *Thirdly*, *With* Regard *to a Man's Self*. It is hard to distinguish whether our FALSE BRETHREN prove themselves guilty of more excessive *Knavery*, or *Folly*. For whatever these *cunning*, *temporizing Politicians* may think, they will find, after all their *Shuffling* and *Compliance*, that the *plain* Road of *Truth*, *Honesty*, and *Integrity*, is both the most *prudent*, as well as the *safest Way* they can follow, and that the *Wisdom of this World* is as much *Foolishness* with *Men*, as 'tis with *God*. For certainly there is no Sin that so much *disappoints* its *own Ends* as *this* does. Perhaps *the Man* may obtain the *present Advantage* he has in *Prospect*, by relinquishing his *old Friends* and *Principles*; but is ever such a *mercenary Convert* receiv'd *heartily* into the *Bosom* of his *former Enemies*? Or are they ever found so *Credulous* and *Good-natur'd* as to forgive and believe such an *Apostate Cordial*, and Sincere, and fit to be *trusted* in any Matter of *Weight* or *Importance* who has *betray'd* his *own Party* for the *little*, *sordid Lucre* of a *Place*, of *Preferment*? And is again ready to be *Retrograde*, whenever the *Wind* shall *change*, and *veer about*? Such a FALSE BROTHER may serve the *present Turn* of his *Adversaries*, who may seem, whilst they want the FOOL, to *flatter* and *caress* him; but let such a *Turn-coat* rest assur'd, he shall meet with *Hypocrisy* for *Hypocrisy*; and since he is got upon the *Stage*, shall *Act his Part*, and be *hiss'd off* when he has done. Such a *wise Game* do our *Projectors play*, they *barter*, and *betray* their *Friends*, only to *sell* themselves *Slaves* into the

the Hands of their *Enemies*, who ſhall *treat* them with more *Inſolence*, *Diſdain*, and *Tyranny*, than *honeſt Men* do with *Scorn* and *Contempt*, if they don't go the *whole Length* of *their Party*, *ſtick at nothing*, tho' never ſo *impious*, and abſurd, and run from one *Extream* to a *quite contrary*. Thus *little*, thus *baſe*, thus *odious*, thus *contemptible*, thus *ſervile*, nay thus *execrable* is the *Traytor*, and *Double-dealer* in the Sight, not only of all *honeſt Men*, but the moſt *profeſs'd Knaves* and *Hypocrites*. Who cannot but have a *tacit Regard*, and *Veneration* for a Man of *Steadineſs*, and *Probity*, that upon *all Occaſions* is *true* to *himſelf*, and his *Cauſe*, is above the *Threats*, as well as *Flatteries* of this World, ſtill *truſting* in his *God*, and in his own *Integrity*, and *Juſtice deſpiſing* his *Intereſt*, or *Succeſs*, and is under all Circumſtances like that *God*, and *Religion* he *believes*, and ſerves, *without Variableneſs, or Shadow of Change, but is the ſame to Day, to Morrow, and for ever*. Farther, theſe FALSE BRETHREN cannot be more *odious* to *God*, and *Man*, than they are to *themſelves*, who are always a *Self-Contradiction*, full of *Confuſion*, and *Perplexity*, perpetually *haunting* themſelves, the *worſt of Demons*, maintaining an *irreconcileable War* betwixt the *outward* and *inward Man*, *Conformiſts* in *Profeſſion*, *Half-Conformiſts* in *Practice*, and *Non-Conformiſts* in *Judgment*. Such a *Mixture* of *Inconſiſtency*, and *Nonſenſe*, that any one that has the leaſt *Spark* of *Conſcience*, or *Reaſon*, muſt *renounce*, and *deteſt*. But this diſmal *Effect* has ſuch a *State* of *habitual Hypocriſy*, that it quite *damps* and *extinguiſhes both*, *quenches* the *Holy Spirit* of *God*, and *crucifies his Son afreſh*; and as *it finds* a Man *void* of *Shame*, generally without a miraculous Converſion *leaves* him incapable of *Repentance*, and both *damns* him *here*, and *hereafter*; and as he *choſe* it in *this World*, *appoints* him in the *next*, his *Portion with Hypocrites, and Unbelievers, with all Liars, that have their Part in the Lake which burns with Fire and Brimſtone*, with the *Grand-father* of *Falſhood*, the *Devil*, and his *Angels*. And ſo here we leave our FALSE BRETHREN in the *Company* they always *keep Correſpondence* with.

IV. Now what ſhould be the *Reſult* of this *long Diſcourſe*, but that if we bear any *true Concern* for the *Intereſt*, *Honour*, and *Safety* of Our *Church* and *Government*, we ought *ſtedfaſtly* to *adhere* to thoſe *fundamental Principles* upon which *both* are *founded*, and upon which their *Security*, under *God*, alone depends; and conſequently that it highly *behoves* us, *cautiouſly* to *watch againſt*, to *mark*, and *avoid* all thoſe that thus *treacherouſly deſert* them. And indeed it would be both for *our Advantage*, as well as their *Credit*, if ſuch Men would *throw* off the *Maſk*, entirely *quit Our Church*, of which they are no *true Members*, and not *fraudulently eat her Bread*, and *lay wait for her Ruin*, *purloin* her *Revenues*, and ungratefully *lift up their Heels* againſt her. For then we ſhould be one *Fold under* One *Shepherd*, all thoſe *Invidious Diſtinctions*, that now *diſtract* and *confound* Us, *loſt*, and we ſhould be *Terrible like an Army of Banners* to Our *Enemies*, who could never *Break in* upon ſuch an *Uniform*, and *Well-compacted Body*. This indeed would be a *true Peace*, and *ſolid Union*, when we ſhould *All with one Mind, and one Mouth, glorify God*, and not with a *confus'd Diverſity of contradictious* Opinions, and inconſiſtent *Jargon* of Worſhip, which the *God of Peace, Purity*, and *Order* cannot but *abhor*. As it is a *Maxim* in *Politicks*, that *all*

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*Governments are best supported by the same Methods, and Councils upon which they are founded*; so it will appear undeniably True in its *Application* to Our *Constitution*, which can be *Maintain'd* by no *Other Principles*, but *Those* on which it is *Built*, and like their *Basis*, the *Gospel*, if there's any *Violation*, or *Breach* made in any *Branch* of it, it *shakes* and *endangers* the *whole Frame*, and *Body*. These Things, however *Little* they may be *represented* by Our *Adversaries*, will be found of the most *considerable Consequence*. Let us therefore, as we are unhappy *Sharers* of St. *Paul*'s *Misfortune*, to have Our *Church* in *Perils among* FALSE BRETHREN, follow his *Example*, and *Conduct* in a *parallel Case*. He tells us in his *Epistle* to the *Galatians*, c. 2. That he was obstructed, and pester'd in his Preaching the Gospel, by *FALSE BRETHREN unawares brought in*, who *came Privily to Spy out His Liberty, which he had in Christ Jesus, that They might bring Him into Bondage: To whom he gave Place by Subjection, no not for an Hour, that the Truth of the Gospel might continue with the Church.* Doubtless this *Brave*, and *Bold Resolution* did the *Apostle* take by the peculiar *Command*, and *Inspiration* of the *Holy Ghost*; and yet if Our *Dissenters* had Liv'd in those Times, they would have *Branded* him as an *intemperate, hot, furious Zealot*, that wanted to be *sweeten'd* by the gentle Spirit of *Charity*, and *Moderation*, forsooth! *Schism*, and *Faction*, are Things of Impudent, and *Incroaching* Natures; they *Thrive* upon *Concessions*, take *Permission* for *Power*, and Advance a *Toleration* immediately into an *Establishment*; and are therefore to be Treated like *Growing Mischiefs*, or *Infectious Plagues*, kept at a *Distance*, least their *deadly Contagion* spreads. *Let us therefore have no Fellowship with these Works of Darkness, but rather reprove 'em.* Let Our *superior Pastors* do their *Duty* in *thundering* out their *Ecclesiastical Anathema's*, and let any *Power on Earth* dare Reverse a *Sentence ratify'd in Heaven.* Let Them *discountenance* all these *Seditious, Lukewarm Almost-Christians*, and promote Men of *Probity, Conscience*, and *Courage*. I say, *Conscience*, and *Courage*; for the *one* without the *other*, is like *Faith without Works, dead*, and *insignificant*. A *Christian*, and a *Coward*, are such *Contradictions*, as were never found in the *Church-militant*. Men of *timorous*, and *dastardly Spirits*, who are *asham'd* to *own*, or *afraid* to *defend* their *Principles*, lest they should *lose*, or *suffer* by it, will prove very *poor Disciples* of the *Cross*! *Such Men* (as an *Ingenious Prelate* wittily expresses it) are only *honest by Chance*. Let us *despise* the *sneaking, shuffling Compliances* of such as *consult* their *Safety*, and not their *Innocence*, and *dare to be true* in the *worst of Times*, with this *All-sustaining, cordial Comfort*, that whatever *Enemies* We *gain*, or *Friends* We *lose*, We carry *one within* Us, that can *confront, vanquish*, and *counterballance* All. (*a*) *Woe! unto them that have a fearful Heart, and to the faint Hands, and to the Sinner that goeth two Manner of Ways*, says the Wise Man. And agreable to Him, the *Apostle* in very *Sarcastic* Expressions, (*b*) *Woe unto them that have gone in the Way of* Cain, *and run greedily after the Error of* Balaam *for Reward, and perish'd in the Gain-saying of* Corah. *These are Spots in our Feasts of Charity, Clouds without Water, carry'd about of Winds; Trees whose Fruits are wither'd, without Fruit, twice dead, pluckt up by the Roots;*

(*a*) *Eccles.* 2, 12. (*b*) *Jude* 11, 12, 13.

*raging*

*raging Waves of the Sea foaming out their own Shame; wandering Stars, to whom is reserv'd the Blackness of Darkness for ever.* Let us therefore, being well assur'd how much our *Cause deserves*, and how much at present it *requires* our *bravest Resolutions*, *hold fast our Integrity and Religion without Wavering, and earnestly contend for the Faith, which was once deliver'd unto the Saints.* (*a*) *My Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might. Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the Wiles of the Devil. For we wrestle not* only *against Flesh and Blood, but against Principalities, against Powers, against the Rulers of the Darkness of this World, against Spiritual Wickedness in high Places. Wherefore take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil Day, and having done all to stand.* Not doubting but that if we shew the same *Courage*, and *indefatigable Zeal*, and labour to defend, as our Adversaries to reproach, divide, and ruin Our *Church*, neither their united Malice, nor Power, nor all the *Plots*, and *Machinations* of *Rome*, nor the very *Gates of Hell* it self shall ever be able to *prevail* against her. And let us *trust* in that *gracious Providence* which so miraculously deliver'd her on this Day, that tho' she (*b*) *lies bleeding of the Wounds she has receiv'd in the House of her Friends*; (*c*) tho' *the Ways of* Zion *may mourn* for a Time, and her *Gates be desolate, her Priests sigh, and she in Bitterness, because her Adversaries are chief, and her Enemies* at present *prosper*; tho' *among all her Lovers she has few to comfort her, and many of her Friends have dealt treacherously with her, and are become her Enemies*; (*d*) tho' *there are few to guide her among all the Sons whom she has brought forth, neither are there many that take her by the Hand, of all the Sons that she hath brought up*, tho' *her Enemies cry, Down with her, Down with her even to the Ground*, yet there is a God that *can*, and *will* raise her *up*, if we *forsake* her not. Let us not therefore ungratefully contribute to her Destruction, but let us (*e*) *continue stedfast, immoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our Labour will not be in vain in the Lord.* Now the (*f*) *God of all Grace, who hath call'd us into his eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffer'd a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.* To him *be Glory, and Dominion for ever, and ever.* Amen.

Let us conclude all in that excellent Collect of Our Church.

O *Lord! we beseech thee let thy continual Pity* cleanse, *and* defend *thy Church*; *and because it cannot continue in* Safety *without thy* Succour, preserve *it evermore by thy* Help, *and* Goodness, *thro' Jesus Christ*, Our *Lord.*

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(*a*) *Eph.* 6. 10. &c. (*b*) *Lam.* 2. 2, 4. (*c*) *Zech.* 13. 6. (*d*) *Isa.* 51. 18. (*e*) 1 *Cor.* 15. 58. (*f*) 1 *Pet.* 5. 10, 11.

FINIS.